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RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 5426  
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY 1947  
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY 0171  
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY 2026  
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY 3727  
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 0689  
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY 1177  
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY 3478  
RUEHMU/AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY 1176  
RUEHDG/AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO PRIORITY 0152  
RUEHAO/AMCONSUL CURACAO PRIORITY 0780  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0147  
RUEHMI/USOFFICE FRC FT LAUDERDALE PRIORITY 3044  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUMIAAA/HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL PRIORITY  
RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA PRIORITY 0677

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 001199

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/05/2026  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PTER](#) [PREL](#) [VE](#)  
SUBJECT: BRV REACTS TO COUNTRY REPORT ON TERRORISM

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Classified By: POLITICAL COUNSELOR ROBERT R. DOWNES FOR 1.4 (D)

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Summary  
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11. (C) Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez blasted the Department's Country Report on Terrorism in almost real time April 28, claiming that the USG was the real terrorist state. The Venezuelan Foreign Ministry followed his remarks April 29 with a communique detailing alleged U.S. "terrorist" abuses in extravagant prose. The quickness of the BRV response to our written report was atypical, but the hysterical contents of the communique have become commonplace. End Summary.

12. (U) Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez lashed out at the Department's Country Report on Terrorism during a ceremony kicking off Venezuelan Labor Day events in Caracas April 28, the date of the U.S. report's release. Upon receiving a note about the report during his speech, Chavez extemporaneously began accusing the USG of harboring terrorists for not extraditing accused Cuban airline bomber Luis Posada Carriles. Chavez recalled that April 28 was the 41st anniversary of U.S. military intervention in the Dominican Republic, which he described as another example of U.S. terrorism. On 30 April, Chavez and Bolivian President Evo Morales attended a ceremony in Havana celebrating the first anniversary of Chavez' "Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas," in which Cuban leader Fidel Castro called the Cuba section of the report "crap."

13. (U) The Venezuelan Foreign Ministry released to the press on April 29 a communique that condemned the report with the flowery language typical of Bolivarian documents. The

communique referred to the USG as the "imperial center." It said, "a cold and immoral shamelessness impregnates all of this report about Venezuela." According to the Venezuelan report, the "shamelessness" was the USG's opposition to BRV arms procurement allegedly necessary to patrol borders. The purported "immorality" consisted of alleged "Bush administration" support offered to asylum seekers Luis Posada Carriles, Jose Antonio Colina, and German Varela. The USG's Iraq policy, it said, was "shameless AND immoral." The communique continued, "the painful experience that many Latin American countries have lived through teaches (that the) imperial center unleashes these campaigns of false accusations...to prepare the political environment for a calculated attack." The Venezuelan report called the U.S. report's allowance that the BRV targeted Colombian paramilitaries a "contradiction." Pro-BRV tabloid Diario Veja ran a story the same day on the response of Venezuelan Ambassador to the United States Bernardo Alvarez, who adhered to the same themes. Alvarez argued that the claims that terrorists used Venezuelan territory as safehaven were inaccurate because the BRV had handed paramilitaries over to Colombian authorities.

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Comment  
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14. (C) We can expect future BRV reactions to criticism of its counterterrorism record to center on these same counteraccusations, all of which are part of Chavez' regular repertoire. Venezuelan documents such as this communique seem to try outdo each other with their Chavista rhetoric. Not much free thinking is occurring in Venezuelan institutions. The BRV's quick reaction is noteworthy. The Venezuelan Government often has to wait for the press to translate excerpts of U.S. reports before criticizing them,

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but the BRV appears to have tracked this one down and translated it on its own. Given the incompetence of the Foreign Ministry here in Caracas, Chavez can probably credit his Embassy and lobbying machinery in Washington for his quick notification on this issue.

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